

Module Descriptions

TMM1011 Introduction to the New Testament (20 credits)

This module will offer students an initial overview of the New Testament, of the various genres of literature that are found in it and of the major theological themes its writings raise. It will present the contexts and concerns out of which the New Testament books emerged, set them within their broader historical, religious and cultural backgrounds, and examine the ways that the ancient authors expressed both particular pastoral concerns and more general theological convictions. Further, the module will explore some of the ways in which the New Testament has been handled and used in various eras and contexts, and will allow careful consideration of what might constitute appropriate interpretation and use of these books in today's church and world. Students will be encouraged to read the whole New Testament in the course of their work on the module.

TMM1021 Introduction to the Old Testament (20 credits)

This module provides an initial overview of the Old Testament. The teaching is oriented around some of the key genres, since understanding the kinds of literature in the Old Testament provides important guidance about how to interpret texts appropriately in historical, literary, cultural context. Some of the tools, methods and approaches used in modern biblical scholarship are also introduced, paying attention to their limitations as well as their strengths. Particular attention is paid to the tension between historical critical and literary approaches to the text.

In addition students will be given an overview of the developing plot of the Old Testament as it traces the journey of the people of God through the Pentateuch, the historical books, the prophets, and on towards the New Testament. Guidance is given about how to acknowledge the contingent and temporary character of much of the Old Testament, while affirming how it remains a vital theological and historical foundation for later Christian life and thought.

TMM1107 Brief Introduction to Christian Doctrine (10 credits)

This module builds foundations for ongoing study in Christian Doctrine by examining the ways in which Christians have known and described God as Creator, as the Son who came to save and as the Spirit who is the Life-giver. The module will also explore the sources which have been used to describe that knowledge, namely scripture, tradition, reason and experience. These foundations will be rooted in the life of the Church both in the sense of locating where that belief emerges from but also how it is held through the creeds and how it helps to re-shape the church today. The module will be based in a faith which seeks understanding so that a passion can be instilled which enables a student to make connections between faith and life. More than this, it is hoped that by exploring the voices which have gone before, students can both make sense of the framework in which belief is set but can also find their own voices.

TMM1147 Brief Introduction to Church History (10 credits)

This module introduces students to the study of the Church in historical context. Students will be familiarised with the practices, methods, and modes of Church history through the examination of specified historical period or periods. The module will help students grasp the historical experience of the Church as a foundation for further study in Church history, doctrine, liturgy, and pastoral practice. As appropriate to the specified time-frame, particular attention will be

paid to the historical context of the formation of Christian doctrine, the nature of the Church's self-understanding and self-expression, her relations with, and her interaction with other religious and philosophical traditions. Due attention must also be paid to the variety of Christian experience in the specified periods.

TMM1167 Introduction to Christian Ethics (10 credits)

This module integrates the theory and practice of Christian ethics. It begins by looking at questions of methodology in Christian ethics, commending an approach to Christian ethics which engages with key sources: the Bible, Christian tradition, reason and experience. It considers different approaches which variously emphasise rules, consequences and virtues, before looking more closely at the key virtues of love and justice. Linked with this discussion is a survey of important issues in the contemporary world, exploring topics in political, ecological and sexual ethics. Both academic understanding of Christian ethics and the practical living of Christian faith are emphasised.

TMM1421 Regional Pastoral Care (20 credits)

This module seeks to explore and discuss some of the key themes in pastoral care and ministry. Through analysis of the assumptions and different perspectives that can be associated with pastoral themes and issues, you will engage with pastoral care in both congregational and wider contexts. There will be an emphasis on examining personal experience of pastoral care and how this influences personal response and pastoral practice.

The module will seek to develop and resource skills for pastoral ministry and enable you to use a variety of sources to understand the context and issues and to form an appropriate pastoral response. Throughout the module, you will consider how pastoral care can be prophetic and theological in its expression.

TMM1517 Introduction to Spirituality and Discipleship (10 credits)

This module will offer an overview of five broad traditions of Christian spirituality with their practices of private and corporate prayer and engagement with the Church and the world. They will be set in their historical and ecclesial contexts and links made with contemporary spiritual movements. Relevant scriptural and doctrinal sources will be explored. Students will be expected to broaden and develop their own prayer life by engaging in the various spiritualities and reflecting on their own discipleship through a spiritual and learning journal. We hope that students will find this a very practical course but one that challenges and inspires them to engage in the spiritual disciplines and reflect on them for their own and other's lives.